

Message

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Subject: RE: Podesta Remarks at AGU predicting an executive order on scientific integrity

Thanks for sharing!

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From: Grifo, Francesca <Grifo.Francesca@epa.gov>
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Subject: Podesta Remarks at AGU predicting an executive order on scientific integrity

FYI – From the American Institute of Physics policy newsletter. And friends who were at AGU confirmed he said this.

Obama adviser speculates on Biden science strategy

As the Biden transition gains steam, a number of science agency picks could be announced sooner rather than later.

Speaking on a [panel](#) at the American Geophysical Union annual meeting last week, John Podesta, who led President Obama's transition team in 2008 and later served as a climate policy adviser in the White House, explained Obama's decision to name some science appointments before the inauguration.

"One of the things I think we pulled off in the Obama transition was to put a spotlight on personnel by doing a simultaneous announcement of John Holdren, Eric Lander, Steve Chu, and Jane Lubchenco, to put a spotlight on the fact that Obama respected science [and] was going to elevate it in decision making," Podesta said, referring to Obama's picks to lead the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology, Department of Energy, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, respectively.

Podesta also offered predictions for early Biden actions in science policy, which he said may include an executive order on scientific integrity and science-based decision making. He added the new administration will tap "top tier

scientists” to work at OSTP and use the office to “identify major cross-cutting issues in climate science, in biomedical science, and bioinformatics.”

On climate science specifically, Podesta predicted the administration will update the social cost of carbon metric and work to strengthen the federal science workforce, “with a specific focus on where people have really been marginalized in the climate sciences.” He continued that he envisions the administration will “elevate” the U.S. Global Change Research Program, which oversees the National Climate Assessment, and “reprioritize” Earth science at NASA.

Podesta concluded by predicting the administration will propose “doubling or even tripling scientific R&D, particularly aimed at climate and hard-to-decarbonize sectors that are really in need of more scientific research as well as policy action.”

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